

## National Republican.

A. M. CLAPP, EDITOR.

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WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 24, 1879.

TILDE'S renunciation is the logical

consequence of his Vindication.

The eyes and noses in the Senate on

the CORBIN case will be closely scanned.

How many Senators will vote with JOHN

PATTERSON on the CORBIN case to-day?

The New York Tribune correspondent

says Senator CORBIN will be beaten by four

votes. Let us have the record.

The minority report—the truthful

report—in the KILGORE investigation is

reprinted in our news columns this morning.

ONLY seven more working days remain

of the present session of Congress; enough,

however, in which to do a great deal of

Democratic mischief.

TIME was when the Ways and Means

Committee was the leading and controlling

power in the House. Time also was when

FERNANDO WOOD was not chairman of that

committee.

SPEAKING OF BAILLOW, the Cleveland

Herald says he will hereafter be known as

the Great American Straddler. As a National

performer, riding two horses at once, he

was a complete success.

THERE have been no great Democratic

ratification gatherings lately, that we have

heard of, at which TILDE'S Vindication

has been ratified, so to speak. The bar of

money is at work, however.

THE Cleveland Herald feelingly remarks

that "BEN BUTLER will be out of a job in

a few days." This is a mistake. There is

a certain dark agency which "always finds

something for idle hands to do."

THE New York Tribune says that Senator

LOGAN'S reception was organized by the

special agents of the third-term movement.

This will be news here; but, if true, it only

shows that everybody here is for GRANT.

The third-term cry has no terrors for the

people.

The few Senators who have hoped that

the CORBIN case would never be called up

will now have an opportunity to make a

record for themselves. An anxious and

scrutinizing public will watch that record to

see how much influence those recent

hopes may have upon it.

THE Memphis Appeal is still engaged in its

fruitful effort to whip General BRAGG back into

the party traces. It continues to call him a

"Western popinjay and a crack-brained

slanderer." There is enough of the mule

about BRAGG to make him kick back and

become all the more stubborn under this

kind of lashing.

SENATOR BLAINE is the author of the

word "Sultrian," or, rather, of its application

to Republican partisans as a signification

of their sturdy adherence to fixed principles.

He is also the author of the Teller Com-

mittee, so to speak, and of many other com-

mendable partisan ideas which have proved to

be pertinaciously useful.

THE Cincinnati Enquirer still insists that

"TILDE'S honor and character have be-

come portions of the Democratic party,"

and no one denies it. Democratic honor

and the honor of TILDE, or Democratic

character and the character of TILDE, are

all as like as so many peas. Sink them up

in a bag and it would be impossible to

distinguish one from another.

"To go down South and see an unfair

count" was the mission on which President

Reformer at that. It doesn't appear that he has done anything since then to lose his reputation for uprightness, although some of his former Democratic admirers now seem to be afflicted with a recently discovered belief that he is not an able man as his successor; at least they seem to be more afraid of Z. C. than they were of J. C.

This Philadelphia Times ventures the opinion that the passage of the Brazilian mail appropriation in the Senate by such an emphatic majority is a great triumph for those who are disposed to do something toward putting our commerce on its legs, as opposed to the policy of sitting down and doing nothing while our industries are prostrate and other nations are engaged in fierce strife over the trade that legitimately belongs to the United States, and which, once in our hands, would do so much toward a revival of prosperity.

If it be true that TILDE has really turned Nephew Peltor away from his fire-side with stony-hearted malice, that much-abused young man is entitled to more sympathy than he is likely to receive. He learned the lessons of fraud and intrigue at his uncle's hearthstone which have been his ruin. FACING himself could not and would not have been so cruel to one of his too venturesome pupils as TILDE seems to have been to this man of his own rearing, this son of his own sister. But Peltor is the gainer, nevertheless.

THE Oklahoma (Miss.) States has discovered a new ground of opposition to the Southern war claims. It says they have nearly all been bought up by Yankee speculators who are "traitors to the Bonnie Blue!" Of course it will not do to appropriate a cent for the benefit of any Yankee, and especially one who is a traitor to the South. So, the States cries of these claims, "Down with them!" and proposes to cheat the Yankee speculators out of their money invested therein. This is Southern honor, ah! But it serves the Yankees right, if such there be, for trusting the miscreants.

AFTER the 4th of March, 1879, the Republican party of the South will be without representation in the Senate, with the solitary exception of Senator KELLOGG. They have a right to demand, and they do ask, that Mr. CORBIN, legally elected to a seat in the Senate, shall there give his voice and vote in aid of Senator KELLOGG and in their behalf. Small they be left without representation and without political weight in any body except in the Republican nominating convention of 1880? Their votes in that convention are likely to be of some importance, and if that is to be the only place where they can exert their influence, they are likely to make the most of it.

THERE is a story afloat, which the Opposition rolls under its tongue as a sweet morsel, that in 1861 President HAYES thought, with JOHN VAN BUREN, HORACE GREELY, and a few others, that the "erring stars" might be permitted to go in peace. It is charged that he wrote in a private letter at that time something like the following:

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THERE would be less opposition to the anti-Chinese bill if it did not establish a bad precedent in the matter of treaty violations. No one in this country can justify that feature of the bill, any more than they can the preposterous claims of the Chinese to protection and all the privileges of citizenship, as well as some of its rights, while they refuse to become citizens. If the Chinese would only become voters in this country their usefulness as political factors would insure many friends to them. As it is now they come into direct competition with the personal and business interests of our own fellow-citizens, native and naturalized, engaged in the varied employments of manufacture, agriculture, and more mental labor, and the natural result is very strong prejudice in favor of the latter. The theory of all this is that the Government is in duty bound to give preference to its own friends over the casual interlopers—"foreigners" in the true sense of the word—who come to the United States to earn a living, but who do not renounce their allegiance to the government from which they are driven by starvation, or by which they are permitted to be sold like so many chattels.

MODIFYING THE PATENT LAWS. Senate bill No. 300 has been considered with extreme care and at great expense of time and labor by the Committees on Patents of the House and Senate. All classes interested have been patiently heard. The best patent lawyers in the country have appeared before the committees, and their arguments and the evidence have been printed and very widely distributed. After ten months of consideration the bill in its present shape passed the Senate with scarcely a dissenting voice. It can only become a law now by suspension of the rule and a two-thirds vote in the House. No bill has been presented involving larger and more important interests.

For years the complaint against the execution of patents has come up from all quarters. Some modification of the law is confessedly demanded by a suffering people, and if it be much longer delayed the indignation of the voters threatens to destroy the entire patent system.

The purpose of this bill is to give to patentees a just and reasonable remuneration for their inventions, to bring them within the same rules of limitation of action as apply to other property and other rights of action, and to protect from extortion the great mass of the people who are compelled to use patented articles, but cannot possibly know when they buy them, whether the patents themselves are valid or an infringement on some other.

The bill further proposes to do away with the existing difference in the amount of recovery and measure of damages, depending upon the fact of suit brought on the law side or equity side of the court. Many other minor things are included in this great remedial measure, four sections of the bill being directly framed in the interests of inventors, and relieving them from the application of some general principles of the law not appropriate to this peculiar property, and rendering their title more secure; but the two above indicated are the underlying principles of the bill, and the things which chiefly concern the public at large, and they are so plain and so just that no man can successfully impeach them.

Exclusive rights in anything can only be justified as they are demanded for the public good.

The contract between the patentee and the United States is that the invention patented, being for the public good, shall be given for public use, and if so given, then the inventor shall be secured in the enjoyment of his invention; but the measure of recovery for infringement shall be and ought to be fixed by law, and when fixed, its amount to be determined on the same doctrine as every other invasion of right, by reasonable damages.

Members of the House of Representatives ought to know that the people of this country, the men who use in their daily life and business the innumerable multitude of patented inventions, are watching anxiously for some relief from these burdens, and will scrutinize very closely the votes of their Representatives in Congress.

No better gift can be made to them than the fair and moderate provisions of this bill, which does full justice to all parties concerned, which save to the inventor an honest and full remuneration for his time and brains, and punishes by triple damages, if required, the piratical infringements of a rival manufacturer, while it leaves the innocent infringer who buys for his own use on his farm or in his workshop to pay what a judge or jury may find from the evidence is the actual value of the use.

The bill is right in every sense, is demanded by an enlightened public sentiment, and is only opposed by those who seek, under cover of a patent, to load the industry of the country with insufferable burdens of extortion for personal ends, and against the general good.

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ter care of our own Government as liberally as Brazil has manifested a disposition to do is to neglect our own commercial interests and abandon them to others, when ordinary business sagacity would prompt a strong and liberal effort to secure them at almost any sacrifice, while in this instance all that is asked is a mail contract without extravagant compensation.

We now pay, as appears by the official records, \$250,000 for our foreign mail service, which is almost exclusively performed by foreign ships, and, according to the report of the Postmaster-General, our Government netted a profit of \$73,000, in 1877, on the postage received on mails to South America, Mexico, and the West India Islands. This shows something of the extent of that service and how important it is that the conveyance of the mails should be secured to American ships.

Then, again, some regard should be paid to the commercial advantages that are to be derived from a liberal and intelligent consideration of this question, applying alike to both sections of our common country—North and South. The New York line will serve the Northern portion, while that of New Orleans will serve the Mississippi Valley, Texas, and other portions of the more Southern section of our common country. This bare fact should stimulate the people's Representatives from the North and the South alike to action in behalf of any measure which promises to bring to our shores the large trade of South America. A fleet of American ships put afloat will secure this end and bring to us commercial advantages of incalculable benefit. The manufacturers, merchants, and citizens of Chicago are alive to this subject. In October they held a large public meeting, at which the following significant and impressive resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, that we regard the establishment of mail transportation by steamships between our principal ports and those of other countries as indispensable to the speedy and prosperous growth of our trade with other countries.

Resolved, that the long and successful experience of England, France, and Germany in establishing and sustaining steamship lines by general pay for exclusive mail service, and by actual and intelligent subsidies, should force our Government the wisdom of that policy, and induce its application to our own mercantile marine whenever and wherever circumstances may require.

The Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade of New York, New Orleans, St. Louis, Louisville, and Memphis have all indicated a strong desire for the success of this measure, in view of the vast commercial advantages it will secure to our country. This enterprise, from the class of the ships involved, their speed and regularity of communication, promises better results to American commerce with South America than anything heretofore offered. Brazil wants our products and manufactures, and in return we want her products. The interchange of trade direct will be mutually beneficial. This the Emperor of Brazil appreciates, as is evidenced in the readiness with which his government steps forward with liberal aid and encouragement. To meet his advances in a spirit of corresponding liberality seems to be but the part of duty and wisdom. This opportunity is offered to us. To close it rudely by our own hand would be to jeopardize commercial advantages clearly within our reach, and which, if forfeited, may be lost entirely. So long as this proposed measure is not a subsidy, not a gift, but the compensation of a legitimate service to the Government at fair rates, no local or personal prejudice should be allowed to come between it and early success.

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